

Crossroads Area Home School Association

2008 Commencement Ceremony

Completing high school is an achievement worth recognition. As homeschoolers you have had a unique education, and your graduation should be equally as personal to you. Aside from your parents, other family and friends have been able to share in your education and would enjoy the opportunity to share in this celebration.

Any homeschool high school graduate from the Crossroads Area is invited to be a part of the 2008 Commencement Ceremony to be held Saturday, May 17 at the College Park Christian Church facility in Normal, IL. Our goal is to recognize not only what you've accomplished thus far but also what you aspire to do. The event features various opportunities which allow you to customize the occasion to make it more memorable for you and your family.

Carefully read through the following description of the day's activities. Emphasized text indicates items or information the committee needs from you. If you have any questions, please contact the Commencement Committee before completing the registration form.

- **12:30 pm** - Graduates arrive to set up their display table in the fellowship hall. Students may display pictures, awards, memorabilia or anything else to let others know more about themselves, their educational experiences or their plans for the future. If you plan to have a laptop for a PowerPoint or a video, be sure to bring an extension cord just in case you need a power supply. *Please check the appropriate box on the registration form if you want a table reserved for you.*
- **1:00 pm** - A DVD player will also be available in the fellowship hall for graduates to project a short movie (3-5 minutes) depicting their personal life. Technicians will play discs randomly and repeatedly until the ceremony begins. *Please check the appropriate box on the registration form if you plan to have a DVD.* All discs should be brought to rehearsal on Friday, May 16 for testing.
- **1:45 pm** - BACHS, the homeschool choir, will begin a prelude in the sanctuary for guests who have already been seated. The display area in the Fellowship Hall will remain open until 2:00.
- **1:50 pm** - Graduates gather in Room 101 to prepare for the processional. Caps and gowns are optional; however, if you need regalia, *complete the necessary information on the registration form.* A group order is placed March 14 in order to receive a discounted rate and reduced shipping costs. Orders usually arrive in 3-4 weeks (mid-April) if you are planning to use regalia for senior portraits.
- **2:00 pm** - Following the processional and welcome, *a video presentation including six photographs submitted by each graduate will be viewed.* The Commencement Ceremony will allow time for each graduate to be individually recognized. Submitted biographies will be read by the Master of Ceremonies as the student and his/her parents approach the platform. *Biographies should be approximately 100 words.* They may highlight significant awards, honors or activities during high school, as well as a personal message from the student. Graduates are encouraged to include a statement of their future plans. Parents will have a brief opportunity (about 5 minutes) to speak words of recognition, praise or challenge before presenting the diploma. *If you would like to have a personalized 8 1/2 x 11 diploma created, please complete the necessary information on the registration form.*
- **3:00 pm** - Following the recessional, graduates are asked to return to the stage for group photos.

If you need further information, contact the Commencement Committee at cahsa.grad@gmail.com.

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2008 Commencement Ceremony Checklist

Thank you for allowing us to share this special day with you. In order to provide you with the best possible experience, please use the checklist below and meet all deadlines.

- ❑ Carefully read all information and email any questions to cahsa.grad@gmail.com.
- ❑ Complete registration form.
 - ❑ Graduate's Name - as it should be pronounced during processional.
 - ❑ Parents names - as they should be pronounced during diploma presentation.
 - ❑ Contact Information - address, home and cell phone numbers and one or more email addresses.
 - ❑ Years homeschooled - this ceremony is for graduates who have been homeschooled at least 51% for at least their last two years of high school.
 - ❑ Expected guests - helps give the committee an estimate for printing programs, doesn't have to be exact.
 - ❑ Mark your choices for each item - this assures we have your response to every option.
 - ❑ Diploma - If you are providing your own diploma, indicate as such. If you want a diploma created, see the online sample and neatly print the information requested. Cost of the diploma is \$5; a padded diploma cover in one of the color choices is an additional \$15. A sample pdf will be emailed before printing. Diplomas will be available at the rehearsal for parents to sign.
 - ❑ Regalia - If you do not need regalia, please indicate as such to insure we didn't miss anyone. Complete the necessary size and color information if ordering. Cost is \$30 which includes gown, cap and tassel.
 - ❑ Donations - If you would like to contribute to cover program costs, we appreciate it, but it is **not** required in order to participate.
- ❑ Select six photographs of the graduate which depict the following: 1) infant/toddler 2) early school years 3) memorable moment 4) favorite activity 5) high school years 6) senior portrait. Photos can be submitted as jpg files on a CD-ROM or through email to cahsa.grad@gmail.com. Original photos may be submitted in person and will be returned at rehearsal; please call 309-662-8396 to make arrangements.
- ❑ Write graduate's 100-word biography. May be typed and mailed or sent via email to cahsa.grad@gmail.com. Biographies must be received by **March 14** to be included in the program. A sample may be viewed online.
- ❑ By **March 14**, all registration materials including biography and photos need to be submitted to cahsa.grad@gmail.com or mailed to CAHSA Commencement, 1224 Challis Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704.
- ❑ By **April 25**, graduates should receive a confirmation letter outlining any additional details.
- ❑ We suggest mailing out your graduation announcements by the end of April. Homeschooldiploma.com or hsllda.org offer economical prices and good customer service for printed announcements.
- ❑ Friday, **May 16**, casual rehearsal will be held at CPCC, 116 N. Cottage Ave., Normal, IL from 3:00-4:00 pm. Any DVD's to be played in the display area should be tested on the equipment.
- ❑ Saturday, **May 17**, graduates setting up display tables begin to arrive at 12:30 pm; the Fellowship Hall will be open to guests at 1:00 pm; prelude will begin at 1:45 pm, ceremony will begin at 2:00 pm, and hopefully we'll be finished by 3:00 pm.

Crossroads Area Home School Association 2008 Commencement Registration Form

Graduate's Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address(es) _____

Number of Years Homeschooled _____ Number of Family & Guests Estimated _____

- **Student Photos:** ___ CD-ROM included ___ Submitted via email ___ Original photos
- **Student Biography:** ___ Separate sheet included ___ Submitted via email
- **Display Table Reserved:** ___ Yes ___ No
- **Personal DVD Presentation:** ___ Yes ___ No
- **Eta Sigma Alpha Member:** ___ Yes ___ No

- **Diploma:** ___ Will provide our own diploma

\$5 Create a custom diploma (complete the following necessary information neatly)

Name of your Home School _____

Graduate's name as it is to be printed (first, middle, last)

Optional Scripture included ___ Yes ___ No (If yes, write out your verse and give reference.)

\$15 Provide a diploma cover ___ Yes ___ No (If yes, indicate color below.)

___ black ___ red ___ maroon ___ blue ___ white ___ green

- **Cap & Gown:** ___ Will not be wearing a cap & gown ___ Will provide our own regalia

\$30 Place order for the following: Height _____ inches Weight _____ pounds

color of cap/gown: ___ royal blue ___ light blue ___ navy blue ___ hunter green ___ kelly green
 ___ red ___ maroon ___ purple ___ white ___ gold ___ silver ___ black

color(s) of tassel (choose one or two colors from above) _____

collar (for women) ___ white ___ gold

- **Donation:**

\$ _____ If you would like to contribute to cover program costs, we do appreciate it, but it is **not** required in order to participate in the ceremony.

\$ _____ Total amount of enclosed check made payable to CAHSA.

Submit registration form, biography, photos, and check (if necessary) by **March 14, 2008**.

CAHSA Commencement ~ 1224 Challis Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704